IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE (Case No. 97,008-X) FEB 0 2 2004 Application of: COPELAND, et. al Group Art Unit: 1743 Serial No.: 10/054,535 Examiner: Patricia K. Bex Filed: January 22, 2002 For: Automated Biological Reaction Apparatus Commissioner of Patents P.O. Box 1450

REPLY TO THE JULY 29, 2003 OFFICIAL ACTION

Dear Sir:

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

This is a Reply to the July 29, 2003 Official Action for the above-captioned U.S. patent application.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the Listing of the Claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 8 of this paper.

An **Appendix A** including a Terminal Disclaimer copy is attached following page 15 of this paper.